In The Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~extracting milk from animals of a total number of animals wherein the extracted milk yield is determined of~~ determining a milk yield for a group of dairy animals, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting a subgroup of animals from the group of dairy animals;

determining a subgroup milk yield for the ~~a~~ subgroup of animals; and ~~only~~

calculating a milk yield for the group of dairy animals using the subgroup milk yield as a factor.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~wherein a total~~ wherein the step of calculating a milk yield ~~of the total number of~~ for the group of dairy animals is derived from the actual quantity of milk yield extracted from the subgroup of animals.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ and further comprising the steps of:

determining a milk yield of an individual animal from ~~of at least one animal of a~~ the subgroup of animals; and ~~is determined~~

calculating a milk yield for the group of dairy animals using the individual animal's milk yield as a factor.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~1~~3, and further comprising the step of: ~~wherein at least one animal, preferably one~~

identifying an animal of the subgroup~~, is identified~~ that is representative of the subgroup.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~1~~ 3, and further comprising the step of:

storing ~~wherein~~ individual animal data ~~are stored~~ to be used as factors in calculating milk yield for the subgroup.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~2~~ 5, wherein the individual animal data are ~~taken into account when~~ used as a factor in determining the ~~total~~ milk yield for the group of dairy animals.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ and further comprising the step of:

deriving a measure ~~or a characteristic~~ for accumulated lactation milk yield ~~is derived~~ for at least one animal of the subgroup of animals to be used in calculating a milk yield for the subgroup of dairy animals.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the step of:

deriving ~~wherein~~ a measure ~~or a characteristic~~ for a ~~daily~~ milk yield ~~and/or a milk yield per week and/or a milk yield per month is derived~~ from a plurality of milkings for at least one animal of the subgroup of animals.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the steps of:

calculating ~~wherein~~ the length of time between milkings; and

using the length of time between milkings as a factor in determining a milk yield for the subgroup of dairy animals ~~is taken into account~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~wherein the determined~~ and further comprising the steps of:

comparing a ~~milk yields are compared with~~ milk yield prognoses with the milk yield determined for the subgroup of animals; and

using the comparison as a factor in calculating a milk yield for the group of dairy animals.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the subgroup ~~milk yields extracted are measured for~~ is milked by milking machines that number from between about 1 % and about 75 %, ~~in particular between 2 % and 50 %, preferably between 3 % and 20 % of the total number of milking units~~ ~~(4)~~ of the total number of milking units used to milk the group.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein ~~the animals whose milk yields are determined are selected~~ the step of selecting a subgroup of animals comprises the step of:

selecting dairy animals randomly from the group.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of selecting a subgroup of animals comprises the step of: ~~the milk yields of~~

selecting specific ~~specified~~ animals ~~are determined~~ known to be representative of the subgroup of dairy animals.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the steps of:

selecting a second subgroup of animals that does not include any dairy animals from the subgroup of dairy animals;

determining milk yields ~~wherein~~ during a second milking session for the second subgroup ~~the milk yields of animals are determined~~ which were not determined during a first milking session; and

calculating milk yield for the group of animals using the milk yields from the second milking session.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of selecting a subgroup of dairy animals, ~~wherein over a specified period of time, in particular of days, weeks or months, a group of animals is selected out of a herd whose milk yields or characteristics corresponding to the milk yields are determined~~ comprises the step of:

selecting animals for the subgroup based on each animal's milk yields over time.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the steps of: ~~wherein a comparison is made of~~

comparing the actual milk yield of the subgroup with milk yield prognoses ~~and in dependence on the~~ result of said comparison[[,]]; and

initiating at least one dairy process ~~is initiated~~ as a result of said comparison.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the subgroup is milked by milking machines that number from between about 2% and about 50 % of the total number of milking machines used to milk the dairy animals in the group.

22. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the subgroup is milked by milking machines that number from between about 3 % and about 20 % of the total number of milking machines used to milk the dairy animals in the group.

23. (New) A device for determining a total milk yield for a group of dairy animals, the device comprising:

a milk meter for measuring milk yield from only a subgroup of cows; and

a calculating device for using the measured milk yield from only the subgroup of dairy animals to arrive at a total milk yield for the group of dairy animals.

24. (New) The device according to claim 23, and further comprising:

a dairy animal selector; and

a controller in communication with the selector.

25. (New) The device according to claim 23, and further comprising:

a dairy animal selector; and

a controller in electronic communication with the selector.

26. (New) The device according to claim 23, and further comprising:

an animal identification device; and

a selector in communication with the identification device to select dairy animals to be included in the subgroup.